



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Los Angeles River Trash TMDL – Board schedules hearing for re-adoption –

Earlier this year, the California Court of Appeals declared the trash TMDL for the LA River void and ordered the State and Regional Water Boards to set aside the TMDL and not implement it until it had been brought into compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (see *NewsFlash 06-06*). The Los Angeles Board held a scoping hearing on June 28, 2006 and posted a combined checklist and technical report on July 7 which serves as a CEQA substitute document. The hearing to adopt the TMDL will be September 14. In addition, the Board has also scheduled a *Colloquium* on August 25 “for all interested parties to come together and commence a collegial discussion on the Trash TMDL...”

This TMDL places substantial requirements on storm water runoff: the numeric goal is zero trash and the implementation plan requires a 10 percent reduction in trash loading per year over a 10-year period. Caltrans developed its own treatment units - called *gross solids removal devices* (GSRD) – which it has begun to install to comply with the TMDL. The construction costs for individual installations average \$211,000 per site. Caltrans has estimated the total construction costs to comply with this TMDL at 2,197 highway outfalls will be approximately \$465,000,000. This is the cost to address Caltrans share (“allocation”) which is approximately 14% of the total trash load to the LA River.

Caltrans submitted comments for the scoping meeting expressing concern that the GSRDs currently being installed may not be compatible with the structural controls required for subsequent TMDLs developed for the river, particularly in physically constrained locations. The recently adopted metals TMDL and upcoming bacteria TMDL, in particular, will potentially result in the need for large structural devices or perhaps collection systems and centralized treatment in order to achieve TMDL allocations. Caltrans noted that the piecemeal issuance of the TMDLs means that permittees are required to implement controls prior to being aware of the total pollutant control requirements to comply with all TMDLs. More information on the TMDL: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/bpaRes/bpa_td/bpa_50_New_td.html Article on GSRDs: <http://www.pubs.asce.org/ceonline/ceonline05/1005feat.html>

Pesticides – DPR to re-evaluate pyrethroids – Pesticides are one of the leading causes of toxicity in urban runoff. Most urban uses of previously popular organophosphate pesticides such as diazinon and chlorpyrifos have been phased out and many users have switched to pyrethroid pesticides. In the Bay area, for example, pyrethroid use doubled between 2001 and 2003. While pyrethroids rarely cause toxicity in the water column, they do appear to cause toxicity in sediments. CASQA has urged EPA to consider urban runoff impacts when EPA completes risk assessments for the pyrethroid insecticides (see *NewsFlash 05-47*). Now the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has begun an effort to more closely regulate the pyrethroid insecticides. The DPR intends to consult with the Water Boards and the pyrethroid review could potentially result in restrictions or bans. The DPR director said it would be the state’s largest pesticide regulation effort to date. More on pyrethroids: http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2006/07/27_pyrethroid.shtml

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>